



Illustration by Vera Ming Wong;  
From 'Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna'

## ***TOFIELDIA PUSILLA*** **SMALL TOFIELDIA**

Small Tofieldia is a perennial from a short rhizome with flowering stems that stand 5-20 cm tall. Numerous linear, strongly folded, parallel-veined leaves arise in tufts at the base of the stem; the leaves are mostly 2-5 cm long. The flower stem is leafless but sometimes has one small bract. The flowers are borne on short stalks in a crowded head. The flowers are greenish or whitish with 6 similar tepals that are about 2 mm long, 6 short stamens, and a 3-lobed pistil with 3 short styles. The 3-celled fruits are 2-3 mm long and contain numerous seeds that lack appendages. Flowering in July-early August.

Distinguished from other members of the Lily Family by having a rootstock or short rhizome rather than a bulb or corm, strictly basal, linear leaves, and relatively small flowers with 6 similar tepals, and a pistil with three styles. The more common *TOFIELDIA GLUTINOSA* is generally a larger plant with longer leaves and is strongly glandular hairy.